

[CLAIMS]]

What is claimed is:

1 1. A support arm for a heart stabilizer, comprising:
2 a table mount;
3 an arm coupled to said table mount; and,
4 an end effector coupled to said arm.

2 2. The support arm of claim 1, wherein said end
3 effector includes a spring biased retractable jaw member
that moves relative to a stationary jaw member.

3 3. The support arm of claim 2, wherein said end
2 effector includes an adjustment collar coupled to said
3 spring biased retractable jaw member.

1 4. The support arm of claim 1, wherein said arm
2 includes a locking knob.

1 5. The support arm of claim 1, wherein said table
2 mount includes a jaw and a table knob.

1 6. The support arm of claim 1, wherein said arm
2 includes a first linkage, a second linkage coupled to said
3 first linkage, and a third linkage coupled to said second
4 linkage and said end effector.

1 7. The support arm of claim 6, wherein said first
2 linkage is adapted to move relative to said table mount.

1 8. The support arm of claim 6, wherein said second
2 linkage can move relative to said first linkage, said third
3 linkage can move relative to said second linkage and said
4 end effector can move relative to said third linkage.

1 9. The support arm of claim 1, wherein said end
2 effector includes a channel.

1 10. The support arm of claim 1, wherein said end
2 effector includes a plate.

1 12 14. The support arm of claim 11, further comprising a
2 locking knob that can be manipulated to lock said first,
3 second and third linkage arms.

1 13 15. The support arm of claim 11, wherein said table
2 mount includes a jaw and a table knob.

1 16. A method for coupling a heart stabilizer to a
2 table, comprising:
3 mounting a support arm to the table;
4 adjusting a position of the support arm; and,
5 coupling the heart stabilizer to an end effector of the
6 support arm.

1 15 17. The method of claim 16, wherein the heart
2 stabilizer is coupled to the end effector by moving a
3 retractable jaw member of the end effector.

1 16 18. The method of claim 16, wherein a first person
2 holds the heart stabilizer while a second person couples
3 the heart stabilizer to the end effector.

1 17 19 The method of claim 16, wherein a first person
2 holds and couples the heart stabilizer to the end effector.

1 18 20. The method of claim 16, wherein the adjusted
2 support arm is locked into an operating position.

3 11. A support arm for coupling a heart stabilizer to a
4 table, comprising:

5 a table mount adapted to be secured to the table;

6 a first linkage coupled to said table mount;

7 a second linkage pivotally coupled to said first
8 linkage;

9 a third linkage pivotally coupled to said second
10 linkage; and,

11 an end effector pivotally coupled to said third linkage
and adapted to be coupled to the heart stabilizer.

12 12. The support arm of claim 11, wherein said end
effector includes a spring biased retractable jaw member
that moves relative to a stationary jaw member.

13 13. The support arm of claim 12, wherein said end
effector includes an adjustment collar coupled to said
spring biased retractable jaw member.